THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Health being a State subject it is the responsibility of the State Government.

However, Central Government under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana proposes to set up a hospital on the lines of AIIMS in the State at Raipur.

Imbalance in Sex ratio

2781. DR. AKHILESH DAS : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether death rate of female children has increased between 1999 to 2002;

(b) if so, the comparative death figures per thousand during 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002, at national level, State-wise;

(c) the comparative female births per thousand males during the above period, State-wise, and all India figures; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to correct the sex ratio?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) No Sir. According to the latest information available from Sample Registration System, Office of Registrar General of India, the female child (0.4 years) mortality rate per thousand population has declined from 24.5 in 1997 to 21.1 in 1999 at All India level. The comparative figures in the country and for 16 major states are given in the Statement enclosed.

The provisional figures of Census 2001 have revealed that the sex ratio for the age group of 0-6 years is 927 girls per thousand boys against 945 recorded in 1991 census. Some of the reasons commonly put forward to explain the consistently low level of sex ratio are:

- ✓ Son Preference;
- ✓ neglect of girl child resulting in higher mortality at younger age;
- ✓ female infanticide;
- ✓ female foeticide;

- ✓ higher maternal mortality; and
- ✓ male bias in enumeration of population.

In order to contain the practice of female foeticide, Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 was brought into operation from 1-1-1996. The Act prohibits determination and disclosure of the sex of foetus. The Act has since been amended with effect from 14th February, 2003 in order to make it more stringent.

Statement

Child Mortality Rates Aged (0—4) Years

Sl. No.	States	1997			1998			1999		
		Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	16.4	17.1	16.8	18.4	17.8	18.1	15.8	17.3	16.6
2.	Assam	28.7	25.3	26.9	25.6	29.2	27.5	25.1	23.4	24.2
3.	Bihar	27.1	24.8	25.9	24.8	21.2	22.9	22.5	18.9	20.6
4.	Gujarat	22.8	19.1	20.8	20.9	18.5	19.6	20.1	19.4	17.9
5.	Haryana	25.1	19.7	22.2	26.2	19.4	22.4	24.6	15.5	19.6
6.	Himachal Pradesh	16.1	15.5	15.8	19.7	14.1	16.7	12.6	13.4	13
7.	Karnataka	17.2	15.6	16.4	16.8	16.5	16.7	15.3	15.5	15.4
8.	Kerala	3.5	3	3.2	3	4.2	3.6	3.7	3.3	3.5
9.	Madhya Pradesh	31.9	32.6	32.3	33.7	31.6	32.6	32.2	28.7	30.4
10.	Maharashtra	11.4	12.9	12.2	14.3	11.2	12.7	11.9	11.2	11.5
11.	Orissa	28.2	28	28.1	29.4	28.7	29	27.9	26.9	27.4
12.	Punjab	17.6	12.6	14.9	17.9	15.9	16.8	15.6	13.6	14.5
13.	Rajasthan	33.4	26.1	29.5	28.1	17.3	27.7	26.9	23.2	24.9
14.	Tamil Nadu	14.6	12.2	13.4	13.8	12.3	13	13.6	12.7	13.2
15.	Uttar Pradesh	35.3	27.3	31.1	34.5	25.3	29.6	29.8	26.6	28.1
16.	West Bengal	16.1	17.5	16.8	13.8	16.2	15	12.5	15.2	13.9
	All India	24.5	21.8	23.1	24.1	21	22.5	21.1	19.8	20.4

Source : Sample Registration System.